

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MOSCOW 03359 041058Z

13

ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-11 ISO-00 FEA-01 ERDA-05 CIAE-00

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04

PRS-01 SAJ-01 SAM-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00

DODE-00 NSC-05 /091 W

----- 121512

R 041002Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 804

USDEL SALT TWO GENEVA

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 3359

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PARM, UR, US

SUBJECT: SOVIET OFFICIALS ON TRIDENT -B-1: CONFUSION REIGNS

REF: MOSCOW 3350

1. SUMMARY. REPORTS OF EARLY SOVIET COMMENTARY TO FOREIGNERS ON BREZHNEV'S REFERENCE TO TRIDENT, B-1 AND "SIMILAR SOVIET SYSTEMS" IN FEBRUARY 24 CONGRESS REPORT SUGGEST CONSIDERABLE CONFUSION AT LOWER LEVELS AS TO WHAT HE INTENDED. ARBATOV LINKED REFERENCE TO SOVIET MDW (WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION) PROPOSAL IN FEBRUARY 27 PRESS CONFERENCE, WHILE ISRAELYAN INTIMATED TO FRG AMBASSADOR MARCH 1 (REFTEL) THAT MDW NOT INTENDED TO ENCOMPASS EXISTING SYSTEMS. USA INSTITUTE REPORTEDLY TOLD SWISS JOURNALISTS SOVIETS INTEND TO FORMALIZE TRIDENT -B-1 PROPOSAL; ARBATOV DESCRIBED REFERENCE MERELY AS FIRST BREZHNEV PUBLIC MENTION (PRESUMABLY OF EXISTING PROPOSAL); AND ISRAELYAN REFERRED TO POSSIBILITY TO REALIZING IT "IN ANOTHER FIRM." SOME OF THE CONFUSION MAY BE BY-PRODUCT OF DESIRE TO MAGNIFY IMPORTANCE OF NEW BREZHNEV INITIATIVE, BUT WE THINK MOST OF IT IS SIMPLY CONFUSION
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MOSCOW 03359 041058Z

REFLECTING INADEQUATE BRIEFING AS TO WHAT BREZHNEV HAD IN MIND.

END SUMMARY.

2. AT QUADRIpartite MEETING MARCH 2, FRG AMBASSADOR SAHM REPORTED THAT SWISS JOURNALISTS HAD BEEN TOLD BY USA INSTITUTE OFFICIALS THAT SOVIETS WILL BE MAKING FORMAL PROPOSAL TO U.S. CONCERNING TRADEOFF OF DEVELOPMENT BAN ON TRIDENT AND B-1 FOR BAN ON SIMILAR SOVIET SYSTEMS MENTIONED IN BREZHNEV'S FEBRUARY 24 CC REPORT TO CONGRESS. IN CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF FEBRUARY 25, ZURICH TAGES-ANZEIGER FOREIGN EDITOR PETER STUDER SAID HE HAD BEEN BRIEFED BY USA INSTITUTE DEPUTY DIRECTOR BOGDANOV THAT MORNING (THOUGH HE DID NOT MENTION BREZHNEV REFERENCE TO TRIDENT AND B-1), SO WE ASSUME SAHM'S REPORT REFERS TO THIS MEETING DAY AFTER BREZHNEV SPEECH.

3. WE ALSO HAVE (VERY IMPERFECT) TAPE OF USA INSTITUTE DIRECTOR (AND CENTRAL AUDITING COMMISSION MEMBER) ARBATOV'S FEBRUARY 27 PRESS CONFERENCE IN MOSCOW, DURING WHICH HE MENTIONED TRIDENT-B-1 PROPOSAL IN COURSE OF STANDARD EXPOSITION OF SOVIET VIEWS ON U.S.-SOVIET RELATIONSHIP. HE STRESSED THAT SOVIETS TAKE PROPOSAL VERY SERIOUSLY, AND SAID IT DESERVES EVEN MORE ATTENTION THAN IT HAS GOTTEN. SPECIFICALLY, HE SAID THIS WAS FIRST TIME BREZHNEV HAD PERSONALLY REVEALED THE PROPOSAL, ALTHOUGH IT HAD BEEN MENTIONED BEFORE, AND ADDED THAT "IT IS CONNECTED TO THE GENERAL PROPOSAL MADE EARLIER ON THE CESSATION OF (UNAUDIBLE) OF WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION."

4. SAHM REPORTED THAT IN CONVERSATION WITH MFA INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS DIVISION ISRAELYAN MARCH 1 LATTER HAD SAID THAT ALTHOUGH PROPOSAL FELL WITHIN COMPETENCE OF USA DIVISION WITHIN MINISTRY, HE COULD SAY THAT SOVIET UNION WOULD BE PREPARED TO CONTINUE DISCUSSION OF IT. PERHAPS, HE CONCLUDED, IT COULD BE REALIZED "IN ANOTHER FORM."

5. COMMENT. GRUEL SOVIETS ARE DISPENSING PUBLICLY ON TRIDENT -B-1 PROPOSAL APPEARS TO BE NOT ONLY THIN BUT CONTRADICTORY. ARBATOV'S STATEMENT THAT IT IS CONNECTED WITH MDW (WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION) PROPOSAL
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 MOSCOW 03359 041058Z

RUNS COUNTER TO ISRAELYAN'S STATEMENT TO SAHM (REFTEL) THAT MDW WAS NOT INTENDED TO ENCOMPASS EXISTING SYSTEMS OR PREVENT THEIR DEVELOPMENT. SIMILARLY, SUCCESSION OF STATEMENTS THAT PROPOSAL WILL BE MADE FORMAL, HAS BEEN MADE FORMAL, OR COULD BE REZWIzed "IN ANOTHER FORM" RECALLS THE QUESTION OF BERNARD SHAW'S DINNER PARTNER WHEN HE WAS SERVED A VEGETARIAN DISH: "ARE YOU GOING TO EAT THAT, MR. SHAW, OR HAVE YOU ALREADY?" IN PART,

MUDDLE MAY BE BY-PRODUCT OF NATURAL DESIRE OF SUBALTERNATE
OFFICIALS TO INFLATE IMPORTANCE OF A PROPOSAL BREZHNEV
HAD JUST UNVEILED. IN THE MAIN, WE SUSPECT, IT IS SIMPLE
MUDDLE ON THE PART OF OFFICIALS NOT YET FULLY BRIEFED
ON WHAT, IF ANYTHING, THEIR LEADERS HAVE SPECIFICALLY IN MIND.
STOESSEL

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DISARMAMENT, ARMS CONTROL MEETINGS, NUCLEAR WEAPONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 MAR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976MOSCOW03359
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760082-0848
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760395/aaaadfww.tel
Line Count: 121
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ACDA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 MOSCOW 3350
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 OCT 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <27 OCT 2003 by GarlanWA>; APPROVED <04 AUG 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SOVIET OFFICIALS ON TRIDENT -B-1: CONFUSION REIGNS
TAGS: PARM, UR, US
To: STATE NATO BRUSSELS
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006